

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 19 to page 7, line 1 as follows:

According to a still further aspect of the invention provides food blending apparatus comprising a container for food product, a blending element located within the container, drive means for driving the blending element rotatably within the container to blend said food product, a housing for the container in which the container is locatable, and microwave energy generating means associated with the housing and with microwave energy emission means arranged to direct microwave energy into the housing and towards a container in the housing to heat food product in the container prior to effecting a blending operation by operation of the drive means. Further features of the invention will appear from the following description of embodiments of the invention given by way of example only and with reference to the drawings, in which:

Fig 1 is a vertical section through a container assembly,

Fig 2 is a section corresponding to that of Fig 1 of the container of the assembly of Fig 1,

Fig 3A is a side elevation of blending means for the assembly of Fig 1,

Fig 3B is a side elevation of the blending means of Fig 3A in the direction 3 in Fig 3A,

Fig 4A is a cross section through a closure for the container assembly of Fig 1,

Fig 4B is a view in the direction 4 in Fig 4A,

Figs 5, 6, 7 & 8 show the sequence of operations for assembling and filling the container assembly of Fig 1,

Fig 9 is a side elevation of a blending mechanism for the container assembly of Fig 1,

Fig 9A is a side elevation of another form of blending mechanism,

Fig 10 is a side elevation of apparatus for storing and dispensing container assemblies,

Fig 10A is a side elevation corresponding to Fig 10 of modified apparatus,

Fig 11 is a plan view of a carousel arrangement for the apparatus of Fig 10,

Fig 12 is a side elevation of a storage system for container assemblies,

Fig 13 is a plan view on the line 13-13 in Fig 12,

Fig 14 is a scrap view, in section, of an alternative form of container assembly,

Fig 15 is a plan view of blending means of the assembly of Fig 14,

Fig 16 is a side view of alternative blending elements,

Fig 17A and 17B are views in direction 17 in Fig 16,

Fig 18 is a vertical section through apparatus for heating and blending food in the container of Fig 1, in one position,

Fig 19 is a view corresponding to Fig 18 in another position,

Fig 20 is a side elevation of a further embodiment of the invention, in one position,

Fig 21 is a view corresponding to Fig 20 in another position,

Fig 22A and 22B are plan views of two stages in loading a container,

Fig 23 is a side elevation of another container loading arrangement,

Fig 24 is a plan view of the arrangement of Fig 23,

Figs 25, 26 and 27 show, in vertical section three stages in a heating and blending operation,

Fig 28 shows a view in direction 28 in Fig 25,

Fig 29 shows a side view of another form of apparatus for a heating and blending operation,

Figs 30-34 show pictorial views of another apparatus in various stages of use,

Fig 35 is a vertical section through another embodiment of blending container having a blending element,

Fig 36 is a vertical section through blending apparatus utilising the container of Fig 35,

Fig 37 is a vertical section, corresponding to Fig 36, showing the container in a blending position,

Fig 38 is a perspective view of an alternative form of blending container,

Fig 39 is a side elevation of a stack of blending elements,

Fig 40 is a stack of lids for the container,

~~Fig 41 is a side elevation, in section, of a stack of supporting members,~~

Fig. ~~42-41~~ is a side elevation in section of a stack of container members of the container of Fig. 38,

Fig. ~~43~~42 is a perspective view of a further embodiment of blending and heating apparatus,

Fig. ~~44~~43 is a view corresponding to Fig. ~~43~~42 with the main housing omitted,

Fig. ~~45~~44 is a view corresponding to Fig. ~~43~~42 and ~~44~~43 with the housing covered omitted,

Fig. ~~46~~45 is a view corresponding to Figs. ~~43~~42, ~~44~~43 and ~~45~~44 showing an internal locator for the housing,

Fig. ~~47~~46 is a perspective view of a container for the apparatus of Figs. ~~43~~46~~42~~-~~45~~,

Fig. ~~48~~47 is a view of the container of Fig. ~~47~~46 with the closure member omitted, and

Fig. ~~49~~48 is a vertical section through the container of Figs. ~~47~~46 and ~~48~~47.

Please amend the paragraph bridging page 29, line 15 through page 30, line 2, as follows:

Referring now to Fig. 38, there is shown an alternative form of container which is intended to simulate a cocktail glass. In this case the container includes a base portion (~~Fig. 41~~) in the form of a disc 240 and upstanding from the base is a tapered hollow portion 242 extending upwards and arranged to be inserted into a body member 243 (Fig. ~~42~~41) in the shape of a goblet, i.e., of circular cross section and curved inwards towards is lower end. The upper end of the goblet 243 is open, and during blending the body 243 has located therein a blending element 244 located over the upper end of the hollow

member 242 within the body 243. The blending element 244 and the drive to ~~said the~~ element ~~is~~ are similar to that described for the previous embodiment. Thus the product is filled into the body portion 243 and such product is blended by rotating the blending element 244 about its axis, as previously described. This container may have a lid 245 which may be raised and may simulate an umbrella in a manner of cocktail containers. The body member 243 is located on the base portion 240 after blending for consumption of product and the base portion may be of reusable material, for example of glass. Alternatively the product is poured out of the body 243 into another container for consumption.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 31, line 9, as follows:

Referring to Figs. ~~43-46~~ 42-45 these show further apparatus in which the container of Figs. ~~48-56~~ 46-48, containing food product, is heated and blended. The apparatus comprises a base plate 310 on which is mounted the various components which include a rectangular housing 311 having an upper opening 312 over which is locatable a closure or lid 313. The lid is hinged about one edge and is lifted and lowered by a handle 314. In the open position of the closure 313 the housing 311 is accessible to insert and remove a container of food product. The housing 311 and the closure 313 are made from material which reflects microwave radiation whereby such radiation once entering the housing cannot escape, providing that the closure 313 is in place.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 32, line 20, as follows:

A container for use with the apparatus of Figs. ~~43-46~~42-45 is illustrated in Figs. ~~47-49~~46-48. The container is of generally circular section over a body portion 331 tapering from a lower end or base 312 outwards towards the upper end. Towards the upper end the body portion 331 is stepped outwardly at 333 to provide a shoulder 334. The shoulder 334 provides for stacking the containers inside one another prior to assembly for transportation purposes.

Please amend the paragraph bridging page 34, line 25, through page 35, line 4, as follows:

When it is required to consume product within the container it is removed from its refrigerated environment and, when employing the apparatus of Figs. ~~43-46~~42-45, it is heated and blended for consumption. The lid 313 is moved to an open position using the handle 314 or by power means to reveal the upper opening 312. The container is inserted through the opening 312 into the housing 311 and the support member 324 is located into the hollow portion 340 of the container. In this position the drive element 321 is in driving engagement with the driven member 345 of the element 343.